

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) applauded a new, joint Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiative that will improve health care for service members as they transition to veteran status.

“Our veterans deserve nothing but the absolute best health care and services, and that begins with a comprehensive and quick transition from active duty to veterans’ services,” **Arcuri said**. “The transition from soldier to veteran is often a complicated time for service members and their families. We owe them a smooth transition and continuity of care. Our veterans fought for us around the world, and it is our job to fight for them right here at home.”

Earlier today, President Obama announced the creation of a Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record system to allow for a streamlined transition of health care records between DOD and the VA. Both Departments will work together to create an electronic records system that will contain administrative and medical information from the day an individual enters military service throughout their military career, and after they leave the military.

Last month, Arcuri announced \$1,025,000 for improvements to the Donald J. Mitchell Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Outpatient Clinic in Rome, NY, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill). Through the Recovery Bill, the Rome VA hospital will receive \$250,000 to renovate and modernize the Outpatient Clinic and \$750,000 to replace and upgrade air handling units.

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